

Ynet-News, November 08, 2022 – Sunday

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PA at Gaza border fire 4 rockets after final election results were released

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In call with Palestinian leader, U.S. again backs two-state solution

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In call with Palestinian leader, U.S. again backs two-state solution
In marked return to power by Netanyahu, Abbas and Blinken talk about cooperation in leading to a two-state solution to conflict, saying it's the way for 'securing peace for all people of the Middle East'
i24NEWS|06:46

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed Washington's commitment to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a phone call with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, the State Department said Saturday.

The move came as Israel's hawkish former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu – who does not endorse the two-state idea – sealed his return to power following Tuesday's election and launched negotiations on forming what could be the most right-wing government in Israel's history.

In a call with Abbas on Friday, Blinken "further reaffirmed our commitment to a two-state solution" – the coexistence of Israel and a Palestinian state – the State Department said in a statement.

Blinken and Abbas also discussed "joint efforts to improve the quality of life for the Palestinian people and enhance their security and freedom."

The election result came against the backdrop of soaring violence between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel's military said its fighter jets early Friday targeted a rocket manufacturing site in the blockaded Gaza Strip, in response to several rockets fired toward Israel.

A day earlier, four Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Washington regularly endorses the two-state solution, saying it is the best way to ensure Israel's sovereignty while "securing peace for all people of the Middle East."

Blinken further "underscored his deep concern over the situation in the West Bank, including heightened tensions, violence, and loss of both Palestinian and Israeli lives, and emphasized the need for all parties to de-escalate the situation urgently."

The story is written by and reprinted with permission from i24NEWS.

11.03.22

PA at Gaza border fire 4 rockets after final election results were released

11.03.22

For 1st time since August, Palestinians fire rockets at Gaza border communities
IDF confirms Iron Dome downed one projectile, while three others fell inside the territory of the Strip; Islamic Jihad claims responsibility for the launch, conducted in retribution over killing of member

Yoav Zitun, Matan Tzuri|Yesterday | 15:06

For the first time since August, rockets were launched Thursday from the Gaza Strip into Israel, the military said.

The IDF Spokesperson's Unit said the rocket alert siren around 21:10 in several communities adjacent to the Gaza Strip, namely Ein Ha'shlosha, Kisufim and Nirim.

Sometime later, the military issued a statement saying that three more rocket launching attempts were identified from the Strip, but all had failed to reach the Israeli territory. "The rockets exploded inside the Gaza Strip. As a result, an alert was activated in the Home Front Command App in open areas only," the military wrote in the statement. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group claimed responsibility for the launch of a single rocket, which the IDF said was intercepted by the Iron Dome. The PIJ said the launch was "a reaction to the assassination of the Al-Quds Brigade commander in Jenin."

The commander in question was Faruk Salama, who was eliminated earlier on Thursday in a joint operation involving IDF special forces, General Security Service Yamas (undercover unit in the West Bank) and the Border Police.

Salama was involved in the killing of Noam Raz, a commander for Yamam (Specialized Central Unit) in May of this year. Salama was also a lead suspect in conspiring with another Palestinian terror faction known as "The Lion's Den" to execute further terror attacks against Israeli targets.

The IDF raided the compound where Salama was staying in, and a gunfight ensued. He tried to escape but was hunted down by Israeli forces. While attempting to fire a gun at the soldiers, he was shot and killed.

Five militants were arrested, carrying M-16 assault rifles. One of them was almost apprehended by the IDF months ago, but played dead and was able to flee at the time. The latest rocket fire came shortly after final election results were released, in which the right-wing won 64 Knesset seats, all but ensuring that Benjamin Netanyahu will once again be the prime minister.

11.03.22

Lapid leftists don't appeal to young, religious generation; Netanyahu wins 64 seats

11.03.22

Lapid concedes to Netanyahu as final election results come in

The final election tally indicates left-wing Meretz will officially not pass the electoral threshold for the first time since party's establishment in 1992; right-wing bloc scores 64 seats

Ynet|Updated:Yesterday | 12:53

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has won this week's Israeli election, final results showed Thursday, clearing the way for him to return to power. Prime Minister Yair Lapid congratulated Netanyahu and instructed his staff to prepare an organized transition of power, his office said.

"The state of Israel comes before any political consideration," Lapid said. "I wish Netanyahu success, for the sake of the people of Israel and the state of Israel."

With 100% of the votes counted, Netanyahu's Likud party has lost one Knesset seat from the initial projections, scoring 31 out of 120 parliament seats. Netanyahu expected to form the country's most right-wing government in history when he takes power, likely in the coming weeks.

United Torah Judaism is up one seat to eight, and no other changes were registered after the final tally was revealed. For the first time since its founding in 1992, the left-wing Meretz party has officially not passed the electoral threshold required to enter the Knesset. While the electoral threshold requires 3.25% of the total number of votes in Israel in order to qualify for the Knesset, Meretz received only 3.16% of the total votes for the elections held on Tuesday.

The party required less than 4,000 more votes in order to pass the threshold, and its failure to do so is a blow to Israel's political center and left-wing blocs.

Meretz Chairwoman Zehava Galon on Thursday called the results "disastrous for Meretz, Israel and myself."

According to Galon, "our voters decided to support Prime Minister Yair Lapid's party at our expense. I want to say clearly that I'm also responsible, since I was the one who took on this mission."

Meanwhile, tallying the 460,000 envelopes of Israelis who voted away from their designated ballot boxes - dubbed "double envelopes" - is nearly done, with some 20,000 more votes set to be counted.

According to an unofficial estimate, Yisrael Beytenu will gain another seat at the expense of Likud, bringing Aavigdor Liberman's party's total to six.

While the Knesset seat ratio may still change by the time the votes are fully counted, it is clear that Netanyahu's victory is assured.

The Likud party received 1.1 million votes, some 265,000 more than Lapid's Yesh Atid, who received 17.8% of total votes, and Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir's Religious Zionist party received 10.6% of total votes.

Transportation Minister and Labor Party Chairwoman Meirav Michaeli is expected to give a statement Thursday evening. Labor received only four seats. Michaeli is facing criticism from inside the left-wing camp over her decision not to join forces with Meretz ahead of the November 1 vote.

Despite the seemingly large gap between Netanyahu's bloc and their opponents, in reality the elections were very closely tied, but seeing as Meretz and the Arab Balad party did not pass the electoral threshold, some 287,000 votes were discounted.

"Emotions are high and the results are disappointing," Meretz MK Yossi Raz told Ynet on Thursday. "There was worry, but I gambled we would pass the electoral threshold. Half of the public voted against this government. It has a 65-seat majority due to an unreasonable and undemocratic electoral threshold. But, this the political system and we need to deal with this result."

According to Raz, "We had worse outcomes in 2009 when we received only 3% of the vote. There wasn't the electoral threshold then. I don't place blame on the threshold, but it needs to be lowered. You don't succeed in everything, and I think we weren't convincing enough.

"There's a younger, religious generation to whom we don't appeal, and leftist parties around the world are facing issues that come from a distaste for social democracy."

Associated Press contributed to this report First published: 17:52, 11.03.22

11.02.22

WB & PA voters struggle to be heard as far-right tickets pose threat to Arabs

11.02.22

At an Israeli polling station, Arab voters struggle to be heard

With reports about Arab voter turnout differing widely, Israel's three Arab parties stand a good chance of not making the cut for the next Knesset session
Deborah Danan/JTA|Yesterday | 13:59

Niji Abu Shehadeh sits outside a polling station a block away from Jaffa's Givat Ha'Aliya beach, clutching a wad of white ballot slips. The slips contain a "Daled," the Hebrew letter representing Balad, the party led by his father Sami Abu Shehadeh.

The young Abu Shehadeh hands slips to two elderly women who have come to vote. "The people here don't need convincing to vote for Balad, they just need help," he said. "Some of the older generation don't know how to read Hebrew so I'm just directing them."

A sleek black sedan decked out in orange Balad flags arrives and Jihad Saka exits the driver's seat. According to Saka, who is married to Abu Shehadeh's cousin, more young Arabs than ever are going out to vote this time around.

"I just got 60 young guys at a coffee shop smoking hookah to go vote with a single WhatsApp message," he said. "I didn't even need to convince them." "They understand this is about their future. They know what's going on because they have TikTok, they see everything — all the racism of [Itamar] Ben Gvir and [Bezalel] Smotrich," he said, referring to the firebrand members of the far-right list looking to earn prominent places in parliament by joining forces with Benjamin Netanyahu. "They're not like the older people, who are locked in their ways, they know they can do something about it."

Balad is at the far-left of Israel's political spectrum, and the most anti-Zionist of the three Arab parties. It split from the Joint List of Arab parties in September, leaving the two other parties, Hadash and Ta'al, to run on a joint ticket.

According to all published polls, Balad is unlikely to meet the electoral threshold of 3.25%. But this fact does little to deter Abu Shehadah and his friends.

"In every single recent election, the polls show Balad not making it. But the day after the election, we always find that to be untrue," said Mahmoud Kaboub, another one of Abu Shehadah's friends.

If the polls turn out to be correct, those votes for Balad could play to the benefit of the right-wing bloc led by Netanyahu, which is predicted to fall just shy of the 61-seat majority needed to run a government.

But it's hard to gauge if Saka and Kaboub are right. Reports about Arab voter turnout over the course of the day have differed wildly. According to the Hebrew University's aChord center, at 2pm local time, the Arab vote stood at a meager 17%, trailing far behind the overall vote of 38.9%. But the Central Election Committee put the Arab vote at 39% at the same hour.

Just a few weeks ago, it wasn't clear that Balad would be running in the elections, after the CEC voted to bar the Arab nationalist party from qualifying, ostensibly over its platform rejecting Israel's definition as a Jewish and democratic state.

“They say Sami is a terror supporter because of his views. Sami always says, I’m working for a democratic state for all its citizens, doesn’t matter if you’re an Arab, Jew, homosexual,” Saka said.

According to Kaboub, this election round is different from the four that preceded it over the past three-plus years because far-right leaders are riding on tickets that pose an existential threat to the Arab population. Ben Gvir has called for deporting Arabs who aren’t loyal to Israel, annexing the West Bank and exercising full Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount, where the al-Aqsa Mosque is located.

“They’re betting on our very existence. We feel threatened. Ben Gvir is hitting all the right notes — he’s perceived as a patriot. And the young people, including the soldiers, are going for it — finally there’s an alternative to Bibi,” Kaboub said.

According to Rozan, who asked that her last name not be printed, the aim is not to make the governing coalition but just to make it into the Knesset, or parliament. She said that Mansour Abbas and his Ra’am party’s move to join a coalition led by Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid in the previous Knesset — the first time an Arab party had joined a governing majority — “didn’t help the Arabs.” Ra’am is projected to again receive around four seats, which could be crucial pieces of an anti-Netanyahu bloc.

“The first thing we need to work on are our [community’s] basic needs, like education and infrastructure,” said Rozan, who voted for Hadash-Ta’al. “If those things don’t exist, people aren’t even free enough in their minds to be able to vote properly.”

Knesset member Aida Touma-Sliman of Hadash-Ta’al made a last-ditch appeal to Jewish voters in the late afternoon, warning on Twitter that “for the first time in 74 years, there was an acute threat that the party with the clearest voice against the occupation” would disappear from parliament.

Galina Vaks, who was born in Ukraine, is one of a growing trend of Israelis who have chosen to cast their ballot on behalf of a Palestinian without voting rights. Vaks usually votes for the left-wing Meretz party, but she said the party sold itself and its values out when it joined the Bennett-Lapid coalition, which had right-wing partners, in 2021.

“One of the kindest things a person can do is use their privilege for someone without it. I can vote because I was born to the ‘correct’ type of mother and she decided to come here. He was born to the ‘wrong’ type of mother,” Vaks said of the Palestinian she cast her Balad vote for.

Osama Eliwat, from Jericho in the West Bank, said he was “super touched” when a close Israeli friend reached out to ask him who to vote for on his behalf. “Thank you for restoring the hope to my heart again. After I almost lost it,” Eliwat wrote on Facebook.

10.31.22

A guide for Israeli voters ahead of the November 1 election

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A guide for Israeli voters ahead of the November 1 election

To clear up any voter confusion ahead of 5th national ballot in 3 years, Ynet has compiled all information needed for 6,788,804 Israelis eligible to vote and chose their representatives for the 25th Knesset
Sivan Hilaie|Yesterday | 16:31

Israel has 6,788,804 eligible voters who can exercise their democratic rights on November 1 and cast their ballot for one of the 40 parties running in the elections for the country's 25th Knesset.

Despite the election being Israel's fifth in the past three years, there is still a lot of confusion surrounding the procedure. Ynet has compiled all the information needed to answer the most frequently asked questions, to provide voters with all the guidance they may require.

Who can vote?

Any citizen of Israel aged 18 or over, who is registered in the voter roll can cast a ballot. Some 210,720 new voters will be able to vote for the first time, most of them having reached the minimum age since the last ballot.

When and where can you vote?

There are 12,495 polling stations spread around the country, which will open their doors at 7am Tuesday. All polling stations will stay open until 10pm - except in communities with under 350 residents, where polls will close at 8pm.

In hospitals, prisons and old age facilities, the stations will open at 8am and close at 8pm. The Interior Ministry sent out voting notices to eligible voters, indicating the location of their polling station and its number.

I did not receive my voting notice. How can I know where to vote?

If you did not receive the information in the post, you can go on the ministry's website, enter your ID number and receive the location of your polling station. You can also call 1-800-222-290 and receive the information in Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, English or Amharic. You can also text 050-8085500.

Must I bring the voting notice to the poll?

No. There is no obligation to bring the notice with you, but it will make the poll workers' job a bit easier if you do. The notice contains the poll number and location and the relevant information.

You are obliged to have a picture identification (ID or driver's license).

How can I identify myself to poll workers?

A valid ID, driver's license, military ID, police ID or Knesset member ID will help you identify yourself.

Where do active service members of the IDF vote?

Soldiers can vote on their bases or in the polling stations assigned to them according to their address in the voter rolls. Voting in both would constitute a violation of the law.

A soldier will be identified using a valid ID card, or the military ID.

Where must a soldier, who will be enlisting to the IDF on Election Day, vote?

The recommendation is for a person about to enlist to military service to first vote at the polling station indicated on the voter roll, before beginning the enlisting process. But if necessary, polling stations will be available at the induction center.

Where do members of Israel Police vote?

Members of the police can vote, when out of uniform, at any polling station. Their ballot will be put in a double envelope.

If the member of police chooses to vote in his or her allotted polling station, there will be no requirement to identify as a member of the force, and any other valid ID will suffice.

Where do prisoners or members of the Prison Authority vote?

There will be 55 polling booths in prisons and detention centers for prisoners, detainees or members of the police or prison authorities to vote.

Prisoners and detainees will be required to present a valid ID card and prison authority personnel must present a Prison Authority ID card.

What about people who are hospitalized and medical staff in hospitals?

Hospital personnel and patients hospitalized will have 222 polling booths positioned in the medical facilities around the country, provided they have more than 50 hospitalization beds.

A hospitalized voter will be required to present a valid ID and a form (25A) provided by the hospital, confirming his status as a patient. Voting in hospitals will be between 8am and 8pm.

How do senior citizens living in care facilities vote?

There are 232 polling booths in senior care facilities and retirement homes. Residents in locations that do not have polling booths on site and are restricted in their mobility, can vote in any polling station which caters to disabled voters.

Where do disabled Israelis vote?

There will be 5,119 special access voting stations spread around the country, 2,938 of them with special arrangement for severe disabilities.

A voter who is unable to vote in his or her dedicated polling station, can cast a ballot in any of the special stations using double envelopes.

A disabled voter, whose disability is not visible to the unprofessional eye and does not have an ID describing him as being restricted in mobility, will be required to sign a declaration to that affect before the poll manager, outlining his physical or mental disability. A false declaration constitutes a criminal offense.

Can Israelis vote if they are out of the country?

Only those stationed abroad in an official capacity and their spouses, can vote in polling booths at Israeli embassies and consulates abroad. Those votes were already cast ahead of Election Day at the 103 polling booths in 102 Israeli missions. Their votes will be counted on Election Day after 10pm.

How can I get to the polling station?

Members of the public must arrive at their dedicated polling stations on their own accord, but in order to ease the process, public transportation on Election Day will be free of charge, starting at 8pm on Monday, and until late on Election Day, according to the regular schedule when public transport ends. For schedule information call *8787.

How do I vote?

Ushers posted at your polling station will ensure you are directed to the correct location. You will be required to exhibit your identification and members of the polling station committee will confirm you are registered to vote. You will then be given an envelope and asked to step behind the screen to cast your ballot, choosing one from the 40 available. Make sure you take just one ballot and place it in your envelope and seal it. You will then return to the committee members and place your envelope in the ballot box.

Where to confirmed COVID patients vote?

There will be 280 dedicated polling stations for COVID sufferers who are quarantined, and patients must use them only. The voter will be asked to show a Health Ministry confirmation of his medical status.

Patients registered with the Health Ministry will be provided with transportation to the polls.

When is a vote disqualified?

A ballot will be disqualified if it contains writing, is wrinkled, torn or inconsistent with ballots provided by the Central Election Committee. A vote will be disqualified if the envelope contains more than one ballot.

How is voter fraud, or disruption to voting dealt with?

In order to ensure voting is done legally and without disruptions, there will be 13,490 assigned monitors carrying body cameras across the voting stations. They will film the vote counts and the transfer of votes to the Central Election Committee in order to identify irregular incidents.

A member of the police and an usher will also be present in polling stations, catering to large numbers of voters.

What are double envelopes and when will they be counted?

Double envelopes are used when ballots are cast in stations other than those allotted by the voter roll, including active duty soldiers, police, hospitalized citizens, and COVID patients, among others.

The Central Election Committee will gather the double envelopes and confirm there were no incidents of people voting twice before counting the votes.

When will election results be known?

Officials will begin counting the votes from 10pm on Election Day before transferring their ballot boxes to the regional election committee where they will be confirmed and updated in the Central Election Committee computers.

Intermediate results will be known in the course of the night and the final results will be determined after the double envelopes are all counted - likely late on Thursday.

How can we be sure of the integrity of the vote count?

As results come in to the regional election committees, they will be entered into the Central Election Committee computers in full transparency so that the public would be able to observe the votes as they come in along with their origin.

Anyone who is concerned that there is a mistake, can alert the committee on line and if one is found, it will be corrected.

10.31.22

Political candidates in last push to win Israel elections

10.31.22

Political candidates in last push to win Israeli elections

Yesh Atid party pinning hopes on 'ground forces,' while Likud plans to fill airwaves with Netanyahu interviews and even bring out his wife - popular among his voter base; parties challenged by voter fatigue after repeated election cycles

Ynet|Yesterday | 01:43

On the last day before Israelis go to the polls for the fifth time in three years, political candidates were perfecting their messaging in efforts to reach any and all undecided or uninspired voters.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid toured the Karish natural gas rig on Sunday and as he posed for photos. He said the revenue from the natural resource will help fight the rising cost of living.

Prime Minister Yair Lapid posing for photos on the Karish natural gas rig (Photo: GPO)
At his Yesh Atid Party headquarters, organizers said their field work could break the stalemate that has plagued Israeli politics for years. "We have the potential for an unprecedented win," they said as the party mobilized its volunteers to encourage voters to come out on Election Day.

Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, appeared before supporters in central Israel after his last-ditch attempt to entice indifferent Haredi voters to come out to the polls in their Bnei Brak stronghold on Saturday. The ultra-Orthodox parties are a critical component in his future coalition building.

On Monday, Netanyahu and other Likud lawmakers plan to flood the airwaves with interviews and will enlist the help of Sara Netanyahu, who is much criticized by her husband's political opponents, but a popular figure among his strongest supporters.

Likud is also eyeing votes moving to far-right Itamar Ben-Gvir and his the Religious Zionism Party, embraced by the opposition leader despite its racist history.

Ben-Gvir said publicly on Sunday that he would demand the Public Security Ministry portfolio in coalition negotiations, should Netanyahu's right-wing and religious bloc emerge victorious.

The Likud is also intensifying their social media efforts to target potential voters. Netanyahu, who will be closely monitoring voting on Tuesday, will use the complete voter roll to see who has already cast their ballots and who would need an additional push. Parties tittering on the brink of failure to cross the Knesset threshold, including the Labor Party, Meretz and the Arab factions, will man phones, send their members into the streets and fight for every potential voter.

Jewish Home leader Ayelet Shaked, who is being pressured to back out of the election, insists publicly that she will be running to the end as she claims she alone could carry the right-wing bloc to victory.

Likud has been concerned that her right-wing votes would be "lost," should she fail and has even changed their messaging from ostracizing her for her role in forming an alternative government, and are now hinting at a place in their camp if only she withdraws.

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Ynet-News, October 30, 2022 – Sunday

**Note: A drastic change in Ynet News visual & content display Monday 10-24-22
No tab for World & Mid-East News & no dates on News Articles**

10.30.22 – Su- - - News Placed in October 23 spot – Sunday
Ben Gvir & Smotrich seek to overhaul judicial system if Likud wins election

10.27.22 – Th- - - News Placed in October 28 spot – Friday
Gantz asked Erdogan to warn Iran; smuggling to Russia will meet resistance

10.27.22 – Th- - - News Placed in October 27 spot – Thursday
Israel signs maritime border deal with Lebanon, US would resolve future disputes

10.27.22 – Th- - - News – Thursday
Gantz meeting with Turkish leader Erdogan to renew stance on Hamas

10.26.22 – We- - - News – Wednesday
Arab allies worried Israel MKs with Ben Gvir fiery rhetoric could sour ties

10.26.22 – We- - - News – Wednesday
Record number of 8000 Jews visit Temple Mount over High Holiday month